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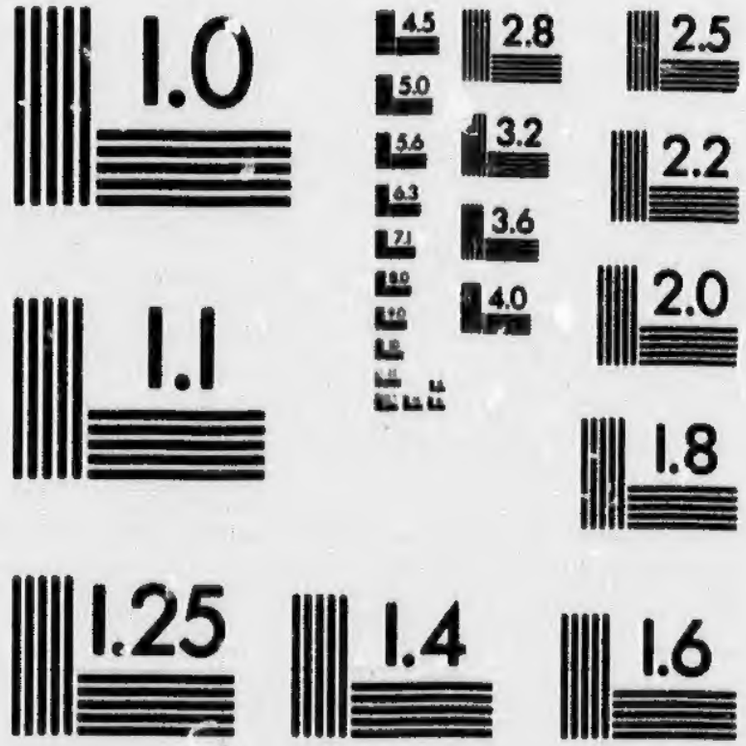

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(Prohibition Series.)

LIQUOR AND LABOR.

THE EFFECTS OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC ON THE WORKING CLASSES.

BY THOMAS C. WATKINS.

In the term laborer, I include all who make a living either by manual or mental labor, or partly by each, and what then is the relation between the liquor-traffic and labor, taken in this extended sense?

According to the Government returns of the quantities of grain used by our distillers and brewers in the manufacture of alcoholic liquors, from 1875 to 1885, inclusive, was 1,163,-117,590 lbs., or 22,015,520 bushels, and 458,697 gallons molasses, and 17,861 lbs. of sugar. The Rev. Wm. Burgess says in his valuable book, 'Land, Labor and Liquor,' "if this vast quantity of food were used in a way to promote the good, or to increase the wealth of the nation, it would be the cause of great congratulation and rejoicing; but when we contemplate the fact, that it is not only wasted, but infinitely worse than wasted, the magnitude of the evil strikes us as perfectly appalling. Consider the proportion of this waste to the entire growth of grain in Canada. In 1881 the total production of all kinds of grain in the Dominion, including wheat, barley, rye, oats, peas, beans, buckwheat and corn, was 149,461,399 bushels. Taking, then, 150 million bushels as an average of the grain produce per year, we discover the amazing fact, that once in every seven years, the amount of all the grain produce in the Dominion, or its equivalent, is consumed in liquor. The grain thus destroyed in liquor-making the past seven years, was equal to more than one year's entire growth of all kinds of grain in the Dominion. Think of it! ye patriots who desire that the nation's resources shall be converted into wealth for her people. Think of it! ye politicians who are in search of a cry for your next election campaign. Think of it! ye judges and magistrates, before whom comes the perpetual array of drink-made criminals, while the criminals who make the drink are made jurors and governors. Think of it! ye ministers of the Gospel by the grace of God. Think of it! ye farmers of the soil; ye toilers in the workshops. Think of it! every man and woman, every boy and girl; think, that the one-seventh of all the golden grain of every Canadian harvest is consumed in fire, burnt up in one vast mountain of flame—flung into the sea without hope of redemption? No, no! Worse, a million times worse than that! It is turned into the vat and the still, and converted into rivers of poison, by which our people are afflicted with incalculable evils, and every form of human misery attends it." There is a loud cry made

by our manufacturers about "over production," and they combine, and pay a part of the mills to lie idle, so that the remainder of them can put up the prices, and thus restrict the purchasing power of the community. While this gross violation of all sanitary and commercial laws is being enacted, our Government, which professes great maternal care for the manufacturers, according to their own returns for 1885, licensed Canadian brewers, distillers and importers of alcoholic liquors, to place upon our market that year 18,046,373 gallons of alcoholic liquors, at an estimated value to the consumers of $37,255,971. Owing to an extra quantity of liquors being withdrawn from bond, in expectation that the duty would be increased, the whole of it would not be consumed that year, but taking an average of eighteen years, from 1868 to 1885, inclusive, the average each year which paid license, or duty to our Government was, 14,528,639 gallons, at a cost to the consumers of $32,678,633. Taking the average population of our Dominion during those eighteen years, this was over three gallons each for every human being in Canada then; entailing a cost upon our people of over six dollars each for every man, woman and child of our nation; or, averaging each family at five members, it would be a tax of over thirty dollars on each family in Canada. Think of it! ye law-makers who flood our land with this distilled damnation. With this poison, which excites the passions of our people, deprives them of their reasoning powers, and urges them on to drink the poisonous draughts until reason is dethroned—wives are beaten—children are half starved, and educated for the prison, and the gallows; our jails, reformatories, insane asylums, houses of refuge, homes for the friendless, hospitals and penitentiaries are filled to overflowing by its insidious influence. The time of our police, our jurors, our magistrates, our judges, is occupied largely in detecting and punishing the crimes, which are its legitimate offspring. The expenses entailed on Canada for the detection and punishment of crime, providing prisons, asylums, and all other places of refuge for its unfortunate victims; their attendants, board and clothing, are chargeable, according to the statements of some of the most distinguished judges of Great Britain and Canada, at the ratio of from eighty to ninety per cent. of the whole, upon intoxicating liquors. Think of it! ye manufacturers; here is an array of charges against this devil in solution, when judges, before whom its victims are tried, tell us that from eight to nine-tenths of the whole amount, which cannot be less than $100,000,000, is the direct result of the free use of alcoholic liquors amongst us. Think of it! ye manufacturers; reason it out, see how it *can be*, that Governments which *love you so well*, can bring themselves to expend $100,000,000 to provide for the detection, trial, and punishment of criminals, and then license other criminals to manufacture and import poison, to inflame the brains, and to excite the passions of the people, so as actually to be the direct cause of making, at the very least, eighty out of every hundred of those people criminals. Think, ye manufacturers, what is the reason why ye cannot sell all that the Canadian mills can possibly produce? It is not overproduction. If our Government would pass a prohibitory liquor-law, that

would banish alcoholic liquors from our Dominion, then our people would live sober lives, their wants would be quadrupled, their purchases of the necessaries and luxuries of life would be enormously increased, they would not suffer half the sickness, or meet with half the accidents they do now; their producing power would be immensely increased. One-half the doctors would be without patients, a large proportion of the jails, reformatories, penitentiaries, lunatic asylums, etc., would be empty, or nearly so. The tavern-keepers would be reduced to one-half, at the most, of the present number, which would be quite enough to provide for the wants of all travellers, the other half of the tavern-keepers, and all the saloon-keepers, would be forced to become producers of something useful, instead of being the destroyers of the wealth, of the prosperity, of the comfort and of the happiness of hundreds of thousands of Canada's once hopeful sons and daughters, who are falling victims daily to this foul destroyer, and are filling thousands of drunkard's graves annually, murdered by the grace of our Government; which grants licenses to some of our citizens, to impoverish and murder thousands of their fellow-citizens every year. Think of it! reason it out carefully, ye manufacturers — about $100,000,000 of capital invested in public institutions, taking care of and providing for our criminals, and protecting the sober part of the community from their depredations, and about $32,000,000 spent annually in drink—poisonous drink, more than three-fourths of which, at least, is consumed by the poor, and middle classes. Then think if this three-fourths—this $24,000,000 were spent in providing for the daily wants of about 4,000,000 of our citizens, who compose these two classes, what an impetus it would give to trade generally? What an impetus to the manufacturing interests of Canada? There would not be nearly enough of mills in Canada to supply the demand; manufacturers would have to double their capacity for production; peace and prosperity would rest upon our Dominion; joy and gladness would fill the hearts of our sons and our daughters; the constant dread of any of them becoming drunkards would depart from many an anxious parent's heart, and then Canada would become the first nation of the earth, in working out the greatest moral reform that any alcohol cursed nation can possibly accomplish; she would manumit her hopeless, degraded army of slaves to alcohol—she would be free indeed.

According to the Government reports of the quantities of grain, etc., used in making alcoholic liquors from 1868 to 1885, inclusive, was 22,490,356 bushels of corn, rye, etc., at an average price of 60c.; 14,116,617 bushels of barley at an average of 70c. —making a total of 36,606,973 bushels of grain; 5,016,841 lbs. of sugar at 5c. and 74,965 gallons of molasses at 30c. —making a total value of $23,629,175. The quantity of coal consumed in the manufacture could scarcely be less then 50,000 tons per year, which at $5 per ton would be $250,000. The number of men engaged in the manufacture would be at least—in the breweries, 1,411; in the distilleries, 285; in the malt houses, 500; in wholesaling the liquor, 2,000; in retailing it, 8,000—making a total of 12,196 employes, at an average of $370 per year, and the average cost of living at $318, as made out by Mr. Blue, of the

Ontario Bureau of Statistics, from Government reports, makes the cost of coal and labor worse than wasted, amount to $4,510,720 during the eighteen years, or with the cost of the grain, etc., an absolute loss to Canada of, say $28,139,895. This, with the cost of the liquor to the customers of $32,678,633, makes the enormous sum of $60,818,528 of absolute loss; yes, ten thousand times ten thousand millions of dollars worse than absolute loss, for this grain might have been used for food for men and for cattle, which would have made a productive return upon the capital invested. The coal and the men might have been profitably employed in producing useful articles of large commercial value, and thus add materially to the volume of national and personal wealth, but instead of this, that vast sum of over sixty millions of dollars has been employed in producing alcoholic liquors, which, according to the reiterated statements of hundreds of the most learned, skilful and successful physicians, surgeons and chemists of Europe and the United States, is a deadly poison, much worse than useless as a medicine, which those learned physicians and surgeons who do not use it at all in their practice (and yet do not lose one-half as many patients as do those who use it)positively assert, that, in fevers, and many other diseases, it kills from five to twenty-five per cent. of patients who, were it not for the alcohol administered to them, would have recovered.

Then, if we take the great army of drunkards, which, according to the best statistical reports, are about one in every hundred of the population, it makes 50,000 drunkards for our Dominion. These unfortunates are mostly men and women who, were it not for the liquor, would be amongst our most valuable producers; but their systems are weakened by this liquid poison, very many of them cease entirely to be producers of wealth, but become producers of discord, misery, and woe unutterable—of crime in all its horrid forms, from petty larceny to foulest murder—of thriftless poverty and destitution; the curse of which falls not only on themselves, but on their wives, their husbands, the miserable children, the whole community. The wives have to suffer hunger, cold, abuse, sorrow, shame, and innumerable indignities—the husbands have to bear with hunger, cold, neglect, and all the attendant miseries flowing from their wives' besotted habits—the children, half starved, perished with cold, neglected, beaten, and abused by their wretched parents, learn to associate with the vilest, the most degraded of humanity, and, alas! soon become thieves and vagabonds—the prostitutes and murderers of our commonwealth. The charitable have to support these wretched characters—the direct offspring of our *wise* (?) legislators' most cruel and unwise laws—the whole people have to bear the enormous burden of this immense outlay of cash, loss of time, punishment of crime, support of criminals, lunatics and invalids.

If we count up the loss of time of these 50,000 drunkards at one day in each week, which is a low average, as many lose their whole time, and others half their time, it makes $2,600,000; then the cost of maintaining them in our penitentiaries, according to official reports for our Dominion, in 1884 was $271,309; the lowest estimates for the Provincial prisons being $83,708, after

deducting the value of the work they performed. The cost of the transfer of prisoners, including travelling expenses and police constables to guard them, in Ontario was $4,258, or for the Dominion, $10,000. The cost of the county jails for Ontario is stated in the Government report for 1885 at $193,097, or at the same rate for the Dominion the total cost of all the prisons, after deducting the value of their work, would be about $420,000. Then the police force in the Dominion is about 2,300, the wages of whom at $600 per annum, is $1,380,000. The cost of the lunatic asylums of Ontario, as reported by the Government, was in 1885, $364,443. Estimating the whole of the rest of the Dominion to expend as much as Ontario for supporting lunatic asylums, the cost is about $730,000. This large expense represents only about three-fourths of the actual loss to our country, as the whole number of lunatics in Canada, according to statistical reports, were in 1881 given at 9,889, when by the same census, the total population of the Dominion was 4,324,810, or one lunatic to every 437 of the population. According to accounts kept by the officials of the British lunatic asylums the proportion of lunatics made so by alcoholic liquors, is 13.1 per cent. This percentage on our 9,889 lunatics, gives us the alarming number of 1,295 lunatics deprived of their reasoning powers by this accursed drink.

Then if we had these 1,295 people of sound mind, engaged in making wealth for themselves, and for our commonwealth, at $1.00 per day, they would make $388,500 each year, making the total cost of the lunatics to be $1,118,500 per annum.

Taking the total expenses of the criminal administration of justice, we find the actual burden on the industrious people of Canada to be: Judicial proceedings, $627,252; Dominion Police, $18,953; Mounted Police (N. W. T.), $564,294; Penitentiaries, $271,309; Provincial Prisons, $83,708; Transfer of Prisoners, $10,000; County Jails, $420,000; Police and Constables time and expenses, $1,380,000. Then if the criminals who caused all this useless expense were sober people, they would be profitably employed, earning a living for themselves and families, and purchasing their various wants, thus giving an impetus to trade, by that means making money for themselves, their families, the manufacturers, and the public generally.

Then taking Toronto, as reported by the Government at 11,426 prisoners confined there in jail in 1885, of whom 3,315 represented themselves as temperate, and 8,111 as given to drink, and taking the other twelve principal cities of Canada, at the same rate per capita, it makes about 86,000; then taking all the smaller towns, villages and country places, the number of prisoners they would have incarcerated would surely be equal to one-half of those in the thirteen cities, or say 43,000, making a total of 129,000 prisoners in our Dominion. Then take an average of one week in jail for each prisoner, it would be 287 years and 2½ months' confinement, which, if employed in productive labor at an average of $30 per month, would have amounted to $103,410. The expenses attending the catching, confining, boarding and prosecuting these prisoners, then was the enormous sum of $5,514,632. If we could ascertain the loss accruing from the loss of jurors'

and witnesses' time, police clerks' and magistrates' salaries and fees, it would in all probability be $6,000,000. Then if we take the lowest percentage at which our oldest police officers and judges estimate the ratio of drunken criminals to the sober ones at 75 per cent., we find that there were 96,750 drunken prisoners arrested and imprisoned in this Dominion of ours in 1885, at a cost to the industrious classes of $4,500,000, or very nearly one dollar for every man, woman and child in Canada. This is not all, for alcoholic drinks made 1,295 of our people lunatics, the loss and expense of whom to our Dominion in 1885, as stated above, was $1,118,500, which added to the above makes the astounding sum of $5,618,500 of absolute loss to our people. Yes, millions of billions of times worse than lost, for it has been the means of making at least about 6,000 of our young men and boys drunkards, who came up to join the great army of Bacchus, to replace about six thousand drunkards who die annually in Canada, and are replaced by more than an equal number of new recruits, most of whom, charmed by the excitement produced by alcohol, rush on their mad way down to drunkards' graves, into which they prematurely fall many years before their time, poisoned by alcohol, and suicides in the sight of God. Many people who have not had an opportunity to study up this question, or who have not been active workers amongst poor drunkards, may think our indictment too strongly drawn against alcohol, and against the time-serving, guilty government, which has thrown the mantle of its fostering maternal care over its poisonous slimy coils, to protect and shield its cruel, murderous, deadly, destructive march over our country, in many cases seizing on the brightest, the most promising of our sons and of our daughters, and dragging them down to early death—to eternal woe.

Sir Matthew Hale, Chief Justice of England, stated: "The places of judicature, which I have long held in this kingdom, have given me an opportunity to observe the original cause of most of the enormities which have been committed for the space of twenty years; and by due observations, I have found, that if the murders and manslaughters, the burglaries and robberies, the tumults, the adulteries, fornications, rapes, and other enormities that have happened in that time, were divided into five parts, four of them have been issues and products of excessive drinking; of tavern and alehouse drinking." Judge Coleridge states: "Liquor has either been the temptation beforehand to robbery, to get something to purchase it, or it is the provocation under the influence of liquor that causes them to quarrel, and perhaps to commit murder; or it is the liquor upon which the fruits that have been obtained by robbery, is generally spent, and it seems to me that, but for the cases where offences have been brought on by the use of intoxicating liquors, the courts of justice might be shut up." Judge Wightman, in his address at Liverpool, said: "Of 92 prisoners whose names were on the calendar, six were charged with wilful murder, twelve with manslaughter, 13 with malicious injury to the person, eighteen with burglary, and eight with highway robbery, accompanied with violence to the person. He found from the perusal of the depositions, one unfailing cause of four-fifths of these crimes was, as it was in every

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ther calendar, the besetting sin of drunkenness. In almost all cases of personal violence and injury, the scene was a public house or beer shop." Baron Alderson said at the York assizes: "A great proportion of the crime to be brought forward arose from the vice of drunkenness alone. If they took away from the calendar all those cases in which drunkenness had some connection, either with the person accused, or the accusing party, it would leave that large calendar a very small one. If all the men could be persuaded from the use of intoxicating liquor, the office of judge would be a sinecure." Justice Hayes declared at the Manchester assizes: "When people come to enquire into the causes of crime, with a view to ascertain how crime might be diminished, the fact presented itself at these assizes, as he had remarked at the last winter assizes, at Liverpool, when he had to dispose of five murders and eight manslaughters, it would be proved, that they were chiefly attributable to drinking, and to nothing else. Crime was the immediate, and direct effect of that besetting evil and bad habit." Mr. Justice Talfourd, addressing the jurors at Stafford, expired. His closing words were: "The greatest English vice is drunkenness. No doubt that this, in most of these cases, is the immediate cause, and it is a cause in two ways of the crimes which will come before you, and especially of the crime of highway robbery, for whereas, on the one hand it stirs up evil, awakens malice, and kindles the slumbering passions of the human heart, and puts the reason into a state of twilight, so, on the other hand, it points out the victim, who, by exposing his money in public house after public house, is marked out by some wicked associate, and robbed. One great evil is, I think you will find out on looking over the depositions, that each is a mere repetition of the same story over again, of some man who goes from public house to public house spending his money, and exhibiting it, and is marked out as a fitting object for plunder, when his senses are obscured, and who is made the subject of an attack under those circumstances, which enables the parties to escape from the consequences, because, although the story may be perfectly, true which the prosecutor in his case tells, —although it may be vividly felt by him—yet he is obliged to confess"—— The judge ceased to speak, and was no more.

Mr. Justice Deasy, at the Armagh assizes asserted: "Drunkenness is the parent of all crimes committed in Ireland." Sir Wm. Bovil stated at the Denbigh assizes: "Drunkenness, according to my experience, is at the root of nine-tenths of the crime committed in this country." Justice Hannon, in charging a Liverpool jury in 1869, said: "I should suppose the testimony of every judge upon the bench, would be the same, as to the fact that a very large proportion of the crimes of violence brought before us, are traceable to intoxicating liquors." Mr. Justice Keating observed at the Norwich assizes: "After long experience, I can state, that nineteen-twentieths of the acts of violence committed throughout England, originated in public houses." "Drunkenness again! It's almost the case with everyone that is brought before me." Chief Justice Davis of New York, says: "Of all the causes of crime, intemperance stands out the unapproachable chief." Dr. Elisha Harris says: "After two years

of careful enquiry into the history and condition of the criminal population of the State, I find that the conclusion is inevitable, that, in all its relations, alcoholic drink may be charged with far more than half the crimes that are brought to conviction in the State of New York, and that fully 85 per cent. of all convicts give evidence, of having in some large degree, been prepared, or enticed to the criminal acts, because of the physical and distracting effects produced upon the human organism by alcohol, and as they indulged in the use of alcoholic drinks." The Board of Police Justices of New York, state in their report for 1874: "We are fully satisfied that intoxication is the one great leading cause, which renders the existence of our police courts necessary." Governor Dix states: "Intemperance is undoubtedly the cause of four-fifths of all the crime, pauperism and domestic misery of the State of New York." Judge Allison remarked: "In our criminal courts we can trace four-fifths of the crimes that are committed to the influence of rum. There is not one case in twenty where a man is tried for his life, in which rum is not the direct, or indirect cause of murder." Numbers of the judges of our own Dominion are equally distinct in their denunciation of this dread demon of destruction—this intolerable incubus, which is crushing out the life of our young nation—filling our jails, our hospitals, our lunatic asylums, and the gallows with its innumerable victims—spreading poverty, disease and death on our right hand and on our left in every direction; and which is licensed—positively licensed by our Government to slay our people by the thousand – to offer up hecatombs of Canadians to the god of Bacchus! To fill, according to the most accurate estimates, 6,000 graves with drunkards annually, to appear at the great Judgment Day as suicid before the Judge of all mankind. Th will each member of our Dominic Government, who alone can raise t flood-gates of alcoholic liquors, an deluge our great country with th devil in solution—this sum of all in quities—or can close those gates by prohibitory liquor law, and shut o this distilled damnation, this serpen whose fascinating eyes, have lure millions upon millions of our rac down to drunkards' graves—down t eternal woe, the cold, maddenin slimy coils of which have gathere and are daily still gathering aroun many of the noblest, the best, the mo promising of our young men, an young women, and crushing out a the native nobility of their nature—a those noble, those grand, those heroi plans which they had been forming f their future prosperity, and success i life, and leaving them miserable wreck on the shores of time, unfit to live, un fit to die; with health ruined, bodie enfeebled, life shortened, they drag ou a short, but wretched existence, a bu den on the community for their sup port, they soon fall hopeless into dis honored graves.

Canada expects every man and wo man to do their duty with heroi courage. This demon of intemperanc must be chained down to his nativ hell, and our country freed foreve from this destroyer of our peace, ou happiness, our wealth and our health The temperance organizations o Canada, by throwing the weight o their united influence with the New Party, will, by energetic work for a ver few years, so educate the masses of th people, as to the destructive effects o alcoholic liquors on our health, pros perity and very existence as a nation that a majority of temperance prohi bitionists will control the elections and we shall have a prohibitory liquo law passed, the fruits of which will b greatly diminished crime, peace an prosperity such as Canada has neve known.